

HELPFUL GOVERNMENT NUMBERS FOR CONSUMERS

www.myfloridahouse.gov



Report price gouging
by calling:
1-800-HELP-FLA

Lemon Law hotline at:
1-800-321-5366

Complaints or information
about telemarketing:
1-800-435-7352

Florida Do Not Call List:
1-800-435-7352

National Do Not Call List:
1-888-382-1222

First call for HELP Dial
"211"

Division of Consumer
Service
850-410-3661

FEMA
1-800-621-3362

Medicare
1-800-633-4227

Public Service
Commission
1-800-342-3552

Social Security
1-800-325-0778

Teen Hotline
954-567-TEEN

Representative **RICHARD STARK**



Florida Legislative Report

Legislative Session

UPDATE FROM REPRESENTATIVE
RICHARD STARK

Summer/Fall 2014



Representative
RICHARD STARK

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DISTRICT CHIEF LEGISLATIVE AIDE

Laurie Plotnick

DISTRICT SECRETARY

Sheila Clark

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Finance & Tax Subcommittee
K-12 Subcommittee
Regulatory Affairs Committee
Select Committee on PPACA
(Patient Protection and
Affordable Care Act)
Veteran & Military Affairs
Subcommittee

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Thank you for the honor of being your State Representative. I hope you find this legislative update to be an informative and useful tool.

This past legislative session, together with my colleagues, we made progress toward strengthening the economy. While some critical issues were addressed, I think the Legislature could have done more to open the doors of opportunity wider for Florida's middle-class families.

We did not raise the minimum wage, expand health coverage for working families, or pass bills to guarantee equal pay for equal work. I also think even more could have been done to preserve Florida's environmental treasures, like our beaches, the Everglades, and this state's unique freshwater springs.

I was proud to sponsor and co-sponsor legislation which aimed to improve healthcare coverage, increase parental participation in schools, keep our kids and families safe, and honor women in history.

I encourage you to contact my office at 954-217-0287 if there is anything we can do for you or if you want to share your ideas on issues or potential new legislation.

Warmest regards,

Richard Stark



**READ ON
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Bills
Sponsored
Or Co-
Sponsored



**READ ON
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The Florida
State Budget:
The Good and
The Bad



**READ ON
PAGE 4**
Helpful
Government
Numbers

NEW BILLS REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD STARK SPONSORED OR CO-SPONSORED



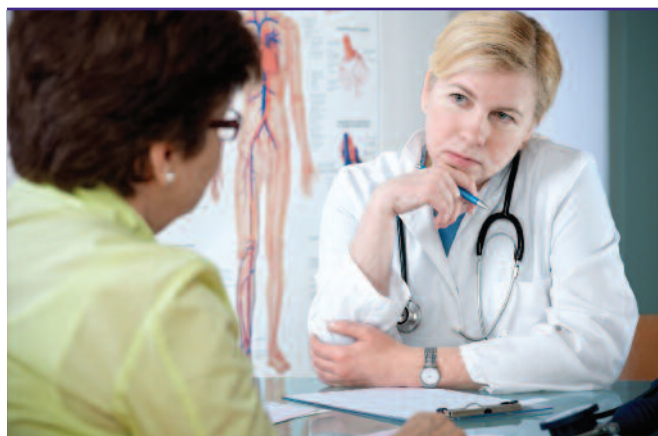
Facilitating Parental Involvement

Requires district school boards to convene at least one regular meeting during evening hours each quarter during school year. The purpose of this bill is to provide parents a better opportunity to attend these meetings and know what's going on with their children's schools. Unfortunately, the bill didn't pass, however, I will keep pushing to help facilitate parental participation in our schools. ■



Protecting Our Homes From Sink Holes

Requires local land development regulations to include sinkhole testing. Unfortunately, the bill didn't pass, however, I will keep supporting ways to protect our homeowners. ■



Health Care Coverage

Revises patient responsibilities contained in Florida Patient's Bill of Rights & Responsibilities; requires patient to be presented with document regarding charges for out-of-network services. Unfortunately, the bill didn't pass, however, I will keep fighting to help our patients. ■



Women's History Month

Recognizing the month of March 2014 as "Women's History Month" to honor all the women that helped make our nation great. The bill passed and has become law. ■

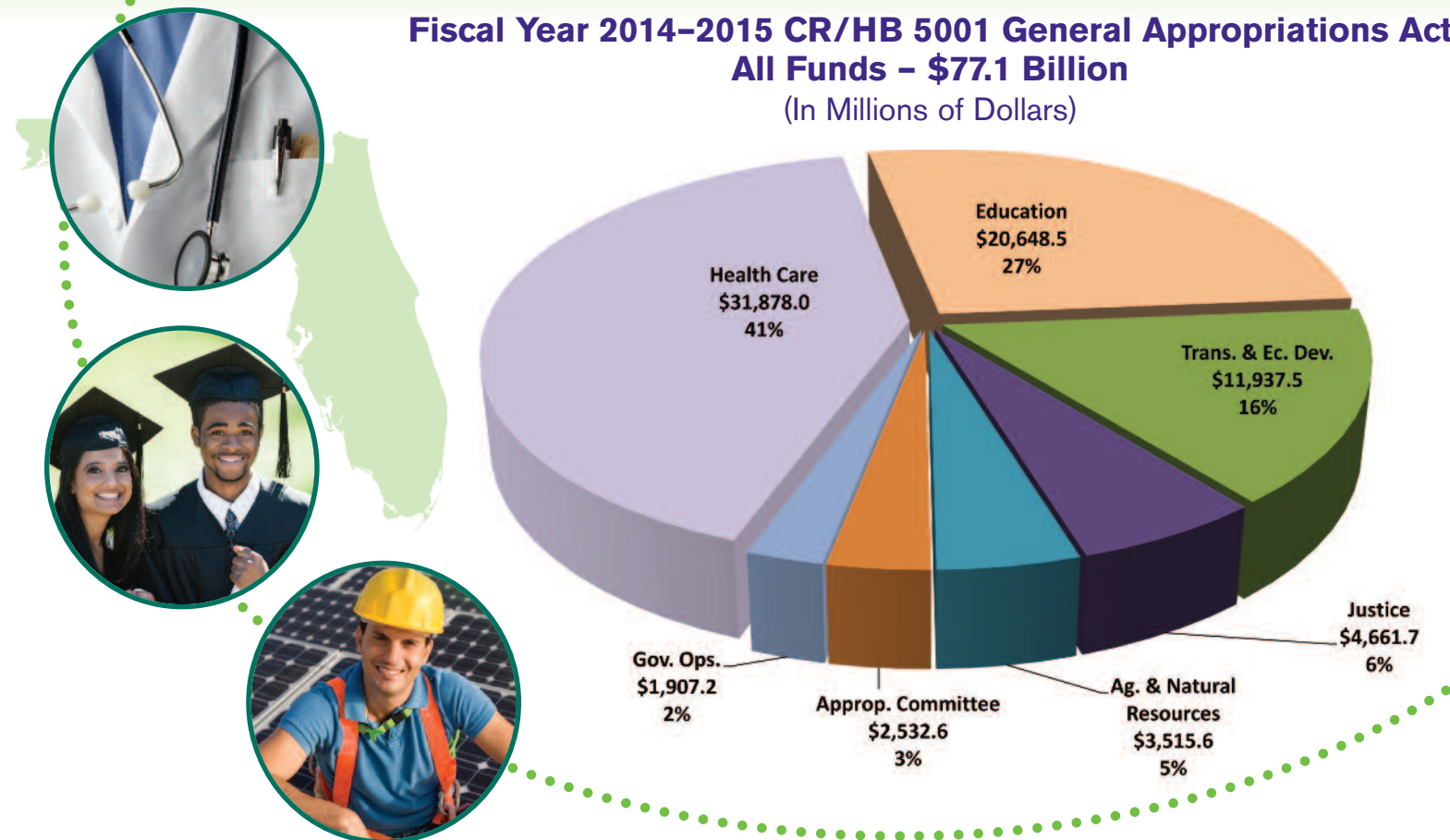


Texting While Driving

Revises penalties for violations of Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law; provides enhanced penalties for such violations when committed in school zone to help keep our children safe. Unfortunately, the bill didn't pass, however, I will keep working to keep our pedestrians safe. ■

THE FLORIDA STATE BUDGET

Fiscal Year 2014–2015 CR/HB 5001 General Appropriations Act
All Funds – \$77.1 Billion
(In Millions of Dollars)



The Legislature passed with my approval a balanced budget that funds key priorities that included a reduction in vehicle registration fees, new investments in public schools and universities, and economic incentives to promote job growth, and various initiatives to protect Florida's vital natural resources.

Although I voted for the budget, I don't think it is a perfect package. Florida's new investments in schools will rely on higher local property tax values, and the budget stores away more money into state savings accounts than what, in my view, is necessary.



The budget sent to the governor doesn't make what I consider sufficient progress toward reducing waiting lists for state services, it fails to restore school spending on a per-pupil basis to pre-recession levels, and it doesn't accept the return of our federal tax dollars to expand health coverage for many hard-working Floridians.

Regardless, the budget funds many critical needs and for that reason I support it. ■